

REMARKS

Claims 19-43 were pending in the application when the Office Action was mailed June 29, 2007. Claims 19-43 were rejected. Applicants have amended claims 19, 22, 28-30, 35, 38, 42 and 43 and have cancelled claims 23 and 31. Accordingly, claims 19-22, 24-30, and 32-43 remain pending.

Claims 19-22, 24-30, and 32-43 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,704,028 to Schanel et al. ("Schanel") and also over Microsoft Project 98 ("Microsoft Project") as described by Tim Pyron in the book entitled "Using Microsoft Project 98." Applicants have amended the claims to further clarify applicants' technology.

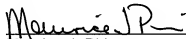
Applicants' technology relates to graphical representations of project information and simultaneously displaying tasks belonging to the same category in multiple formats. For example, claim 19 now recites "the first graphical element representing the first task comprises different data fields and a different layout of data fields from the second graphical element representing the second task even though the first task and the second task are assigned the same category." Claim 29 now recites "a graphical element representing the first task is displayed in the second format at the same time a graphical element representing a second task is displayed in the first format even though the first task and the second task are assigned the same category." Claim 35 now recites "graphical elements representing tasks in one category are displayed in a first shape format at the same time as graphical elements representing tasks in the same category are displayed in a second shape format." Claim 43 now recites "a graphical element for a task assigned the first category and displayed in the first format and a graphical element for a different task assigned the first category and displayed in the second format are displayed simultaneously." Claims 19, 29, and 35 further recite a PERT chart or a network diagram to graphically represent project data.

Neither Schanel nor Microsoft Project teaches the features of applicants' claimed technology. As the Office Action points out, Schanel does not describe customizing the display of the project data on a task-by-task basis. Furthermore, Microsoft Project does not describe customizing project data on a task-by-task basis among tasks belonging to the same category. With respect to Gantt Charts, Microsoft Project describes customizing specific graphical representations of tasks that "don't fall into one of the categories available." (Microsoft Project, 713). In other words, tasks belonging to a category cannot be customized on a task-by-task basis. Rather, each task of a category is displayed in the same graphical representation. With respect to PERT charts, Microsoft Project only describes customizing graphical representations of tasks on a category-by-category basis. (See Microsoft Project, 720). Furthermore, the data fields displayed within PERT chart nodes can only be set globally. (Microsoft Project, 721-23). Therefore, at any given time every node within a PERT chart of Microsoft Project displays the same data fields. Applicants' technology, in contrast, simultaneously displays PERT chart nodes with different data fields and allows customizing the graphical representations of tasks belonging to the same category on a task-by-task basis.

Based upon the above amendments and remarks, applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this application and its early allowance. If the Examiner has any questions, or believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is encouraged to call the undersigned at (206) 359-8548.

Respectfully submitted,
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Date: 12-14-07


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